

PENNSYLVANIA

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Republicans want Pennsylvanians to believe that they're better off under unchecked GOP control of Washington.

President Donald Trump tweets that "Our Economy is setting records on virtually every front - Probably the best our country has ever done. Tremendous value created since the Election."¹ Speaker Ryan tells the press that "by just about any economic measure, the American people are better off now."²

But it is only the well-off who are weathering the rising costs and destructive consequences of the Republicans' reckless, special-interest first policies.

Health Care Costs Rising – 5,329,500 Pennsylvanians with pre-existing conditions could lose key protections under Republicans' lawsuit to strike down the ACA's protections for people with pre-existing conditions.³ Republicans' health care sabotage has dramatically increased premium costs in most ACA Marketplaces across the country.⁴

Prescription Drug Prices Increasing – While President Trump backed down from his promise to have Medicare negotiate down prescription drug prices, 12 of the top 20 most costly drugs for Medicare Part D increased in price in the first year of the Trump Administration.⁵ In the first seven months of 2018 alone, there were 4,412 brand-name drug price increases and 46 price cuts, a ratio of 96-to-1.⁶

Tax Scam Failing Families – 1,049,170 Pennsylvania taxpayers will see NO tax benefit or will suffer a tax hike by 2019.⁷

Real Wages Stagnating – From President Trump's inauguration in January 2017 to August 2018, real average hourly wages in Pennsylvania have fallen 2.2 percent.⁸

Unmet Infrastructure Needs – Due to the lack of federal infrastructure investment, ASCE grades Pennsylvania's infrastructure at a C-.⁹

Republicans are trying to focus attention on the stock market and the wealth of big corporations. Democrats are listening to the voices and the stories of the hard-working Americans that the President and the GOP Congress have long ignored.

Democrats' agenda is For The People: lower your health care costs and prescription drug prices, increase your pay through strong economic growth by rebuilding America, and clean up corruption to make Washington work for you.

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HEALTH COSTS RISING

At a 2016 rally in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, President Trump promised that Republican leadership would create “quality, reliable, affordable health care” and “at a much less expensive cost.”¹⁰

But the GOP’s relentless attacks on Americans’ health care are threatening the affordable coverage of millions with pre-existing conditions, hiking the cost of prescription drugs and raising premiums for everybody.¹¹

Under Republicans’ lawsuit to strike down the ACA’s protections for people with pre-existing conditions:

- **5,329,500 Pennsylvanians with pre-existing conditions** could lose key protections¹²
- **Nearly 2.6 million women and girls in Pennsylvania** with pre-existing conditions would lose protections.¹³
- **More than 210,000 pregnant Pennsylvania women** risk losing their coverage.¹⁴
- Insurers could deny coverage outright or impose massive surcharges on people with pre-existing conditions, such as up to:¹⁵
 - **\$4,270 for asthma;**
 - **\$5,510 for diabetes;**
 - **\$17,060 for pregnancy;**
 - **\$26,180 for rheumatoid arthritis;**
 - **\$57,090 for acute myocardial infarction (heart attack);**
 - **\$140,510 for metastatic cancer.**

If House Republicans had succeeded in having the American Health Care Act, their House-passed Trumpcare legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act, signed into law:

- 777,000 Pennsylvanians would have lost coverage under Trumpcare by 2026.¹⁶
- 371,800 Pennsylvanians with Medicaid would have lost coverage.¹⁷
- 10,800 veterans in Pennsylvania would have lost their Medicaid coverage.¹⁸
- Out-of-pocket health costs for older Pennsylvanians could have increased by as much as \$9,734 a year by 2020, due to Trumpcare imposing what the AARP calls an “age tax” by allowing insurers to charge people over age 50 five times more.¹⁹
- The negative economic impact of the American Health Care Act would have caused 51,586 Pennsylvanians to lose their jobs by 2022.²⁰

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES INCREASING

President Trump once declared that big pharmaceutical companies are “getting away with murder” and that “We’re going to negotiate like crazy”²² on Medicare Part D prescription drug prices

But when he unveiled his agenda in May 2018, President Trump backed down from his promise to enable Medicare Part D to negotiate down drug prices – and Big Pharma stocks surged.²³ The GOP tax law even handed Big Pharma massive tax breaks that have funded more than \$50 billion in stock buybacks to enrich top investors and executives.²⁴

Now Pennsylvania seniors and families are stuck with soaring prescription drug costs:

- In the first seven months since passage of the GOP Tax scam, an investigation by the Associated Press found 4,412 brand-name drug price increases and 46 price cuts, a ratio of 96-to-1.²⁵
- 16 of the top 20 best-selling drugs in the United States increased significantly in price in the first year of the Trump Administration, mostly by double digits.²⁶
- 12 of the top 20 most costly drugs for Medicare Part D increased in price in the first year of the Trump Administration.²⁷

TAX SCAM FAILING FAMILIES

In selling Republicans' tax bill, President Trump claimed it “would likely give the typical American household a \$4,000 pay raise.”²⁸

In practice, however, the benefits of the new tax bill were designed to flow overwhelmingly to big corporations and the wealthiest 1 percent:

- **1,049,170 Pennsylvania** taxpayers will see NO tax benefit or will suffer a tax hike by 2019.²⁹
- **2,327,490 Pennsylvania** taxpayers will see NO tax benefit or will suffer a tax hike by 2027.³⁰

REAL WAGES STAGNATING

President Trump frequently celebrates “another great day for the Stock Market. Consumer Confidence is at Record High.”³¹

But in the 19 months since President Trump's inauguration in January 2017, **real average hourly wages in Pennsylvania fell 2.2%.**³²

- Inflation has surged 2.7% in the Northeast from August 2017 to August 2018.³³
- As of the end of August, the cost of gas increased 19.7% in a year for the Northeast.³⁴
- As of August 2018, overall transportation costs are up 5.2% from a year prior in the Northeast.³⁵
- Food prices in the Northeast are rising, with the price of a dozen eggs up 7.5% over the past year.³⁶
- Other basic costs, such as for eating out at a restaurant, are rising faster than the high pace of inflation.³⁷

American workers face new obstacles under Republican control of Washington:

- As of October 9, 2018, **over 19,000 Pennsylvanian workers have been affected by plant closings and mass layoffs** since President Trump took office in January 2017, according to the WARN notification system.³⁸
- **\$2.4 billion in state exports are threatened** by China's retaliatory tariffs in Pennsylvania, including \$288 million in coal exports³⁹
- 89% of Pennsylvania exporters are small and medium-sized businesses.⁴⁰

Republicans continue to leave behind students, families and millennials with huge loan burdens:

- Total outstanding student loan debt balance in Pennsylvania: **nearly \$62 billion.** ⁴¹
- Average student debt for students at public and private 4-year institutions in Pennsylvania: **\$36,854.** ⁴²
- Share of students at public and private 4-year institutions in Pennsylvania with debt: **67%** placing Pennsylvania in the **second worst** of all states. ⁴³

UNMET INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

President Trump told Pennsylvanians, “under a Trump Administration, [...] we are going to rebuild this nation.”⁴⁴

However, he and the Republican Congress have refused to bring forward meaningful legislation to address the massive infrastructure backlog in the United States.

The GOP’s refusal to make good on this promise to rebuild America’s broken infrastructure hurts Pennsylvania families, endangers public health, and weakens Pennsylvania’s ability to compete in the global marketplace.

- Driving on roads in need of repair in Pennsylvania costs each driver **\$606 per year.** ⁴⁵
- Nearly **1/3** of roads have been rated “poor” by the American Society of Civil Engineers. ⁴⁶
- **756 dams** are rated as high-hazard potential and **nearly 20% of Pennsylvania bridges** are structurally deficient. ⁴⁷
- Drinking water infrastructure needs in Pennsylvania are estimated to be **\$14.2 billion** over the next 20 years. ⁴⁸
- Wastewater infrastructure needs total over **\$6.95 billion** over the next 20 years. ⁴⁹
- Pennsylvania schools have an estimated capital expenditure gap of **\$1.4 billion.** ⁵⁰

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- ⁴ "Marketplace Average Benchmark Premiums" The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation - <https://www.democraticleader.gov/newsroom/10918/>
- ⁵ "Skyrocketing Drug Prices: Year One of the Trump Administration" Democratic Staff Report, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, May 11, 2018, <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/Skyrocketing%20Drug%20Prices-Year%20One%20of%20the%20Trump%20Administration.pdf>
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